

**ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 14, 1997**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Mr. Anibal Ramos, Ms. Glenda Nieves, Mr. Rolando Velazquez, Mr. Gene Calderon, Dr. Mercedes Del Valle-Rana, Ms. Maria H. Colón, Mr. Carlos Alma, Ms. Noemi Velázquez

**Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Pablo Munoz

**Staff Members Present:**

Ms. Wanda De Jesus, Ms. Anandi Kimmel

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m., at the ASPIRA Central Office.

**II. WAIVER OF NOTICE**

All members stated that they had been duly notified of the meeting.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The date needed to be added to the Agenda. All members voted to approve the Agenda, with the necessary correction.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Ms. Colón made a motion to approve the Minutes. Mr. Alma second the motion. It was noted that the names of some of the Board Members should be accented. All voted in favor of accepting the Minutes with the names accented.

**V. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Ms. Velázquez stated that she had attended the National ASPIRA Conference in Washington, D.C. and that it was very good, although not well attended by students. Those students who did attend benefitted. However, she added that our students and the community did not understand the value of entrepreneurship, which was the theme of this year's conference. Dr. Antonia Pantoja,

founder of ASPIRA, spoke. Ms. Velázquez stated that she is so focused. She added that Dr. Pantoja emphasized the importance of having only Puerto Rican board members. Also discussed at the conference was the status of Puerto Rico and the Young Bill.

Ms. Velázquez stated that there's a meeting in Pennsylvania this weekend. All members from the northern states (i.e., PA, CT, NY, and NJ) will attend. She said it's very important for us to be involved.

Ms. Velázquez stated that she will do a video of a meeting with Dr. Pantoja, which will be presented at the Awards Luncheon. Ms. Raquel Ortiz, National Chairperson, will be at the Luncheon.

#### **VI. Acting Executive Director's Report**

Ms. De Jesus stated that she met with Mayor Milan of Camden, who would like ASPIRA to establish a charter school in Camden.

Ms. De Jesus said that the Violence Prevention Grant, funded by the Penn Foundation, has been approved. This is a 3-year grant, of \$33,500 per year.

On September 23rd, she attended the Latino Collaboration meeting, where she spoke with community members. She attended the UMDNJ Center for Hispanic Excellence. She stated that ASPIRA would get a computer as a part of the collaboration.

Ms. De Jesus met with Mr. Steve McCormick of Annheuser-Busch who presented her with a check in response to a proposal that had been submitted earlier by the Development Office.

Ms. De Jesus stated that she also attended the ASPIRA conference in Washington, D.C.

Ms. De Jesus stated that Friday, October 17th, would be her last day as Acting Executive Director. She said that her Camden staff needs attention and guidance. Also, she is still interviewing candidates for her Camden Center.

Ms. Velázquez asked Ms. De Jesus to continue as Acting Executive Director until the end of the month. Ms. De Jesus agreed to the request.

#### **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Personnel Committee**

Mr. Calderon reported that 42 people had applied for the position of Executive Director. Eight persons were selected to be interviewed. The choice was narrowed down to three candidates, who were invited to have a second interview. Ms. De Jesus, Ms. Velázquez, and Mr. Ortiz interviewed the three candidates, who all had excellent backgrounds. Of the three candidates, one was

eliminated. The remaining two candidates, Mr. John Alvarez and Mr. William Colón, were seriously discussed as to their qualifications, salary requests, and other consideration (i.e., Mr. Colón requested the use of a car and cellular phone). Mr. Colón appeared to be the likely candidate. Another meeting with Mr. Colón was scheduled for October 22nd.

#### **Program Committee**

Ms. Colón is writing a math and science proposal for students from Jersey City and East Orange and needs a letter of support.

#### **Programs Committee**

Ms. Nieves reported that everyone had a great time at the National Conference. There was a feeling of camaraderie among all Aspirantes. Everyone wanted to be together rather than in groups. The AC group has many plans.

#### **Development Committee**

Dr. Valle-Rana stated that the television program that they are working on will be held on Tuesday.

She discussed the reception, which will be held on November 18th at the Paterson Museum. Ms. Alicia Maury will help us coordinate the event. She has many community contacts. Dr. Valle-Rana stated that she would draft a letter to go to members of the Paterson community. Also, she would draft a letter to go to the new Superintendent of the Paterson Public Schools, who will be a guest of honor at the reception. She will also get in touch with Councilwoman Maria Magda, to discuss co-hosting the reception. We shall need \$75 for security.

#### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed at this time.

#### **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Velázquez discussed the rescheduling of board meetings. After some discussion of days and dates, it was unanimously decided to schedule the board meeting for the 3rd Tuesday of every month, rather than the 3rd Wednesday, as in the past.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Calderon moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Alma second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.